

Lesson 18: How to Steal Colors from Any Source

Have you ever fallen in love with a photo's colors and wished you could use those colors in your work? If so, then this next lesson is for you.

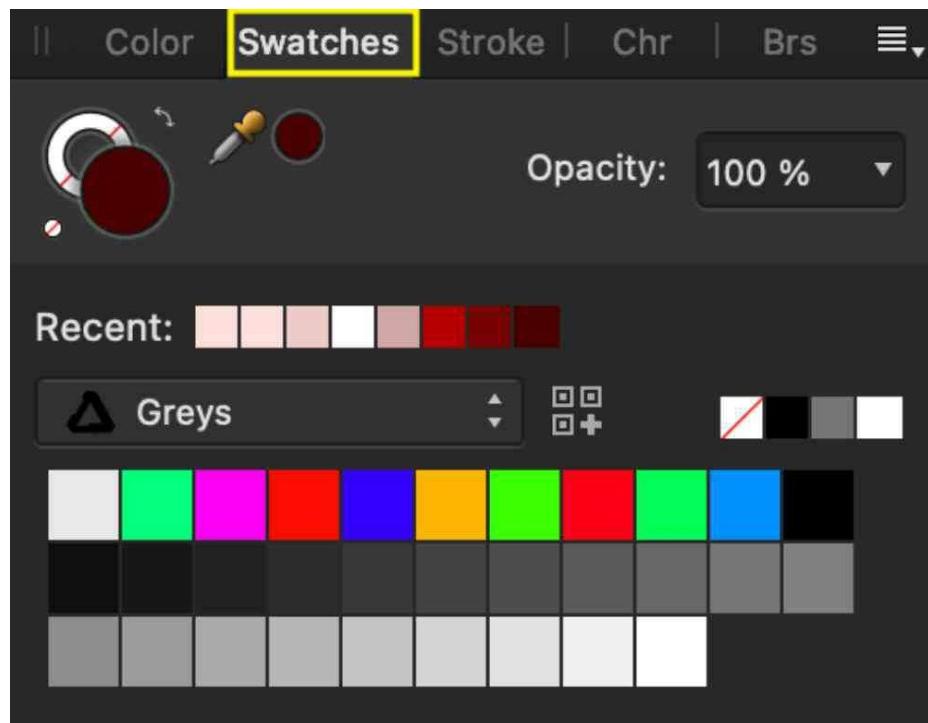
In this lesson, we're going to take the color grading from a photo of our favorite Instagram couple and add it to our beautiful landscape image from the previous lesson. Once you learn how to do this, you can then very easily apply this method to every image or design you create.

Ready to get started?

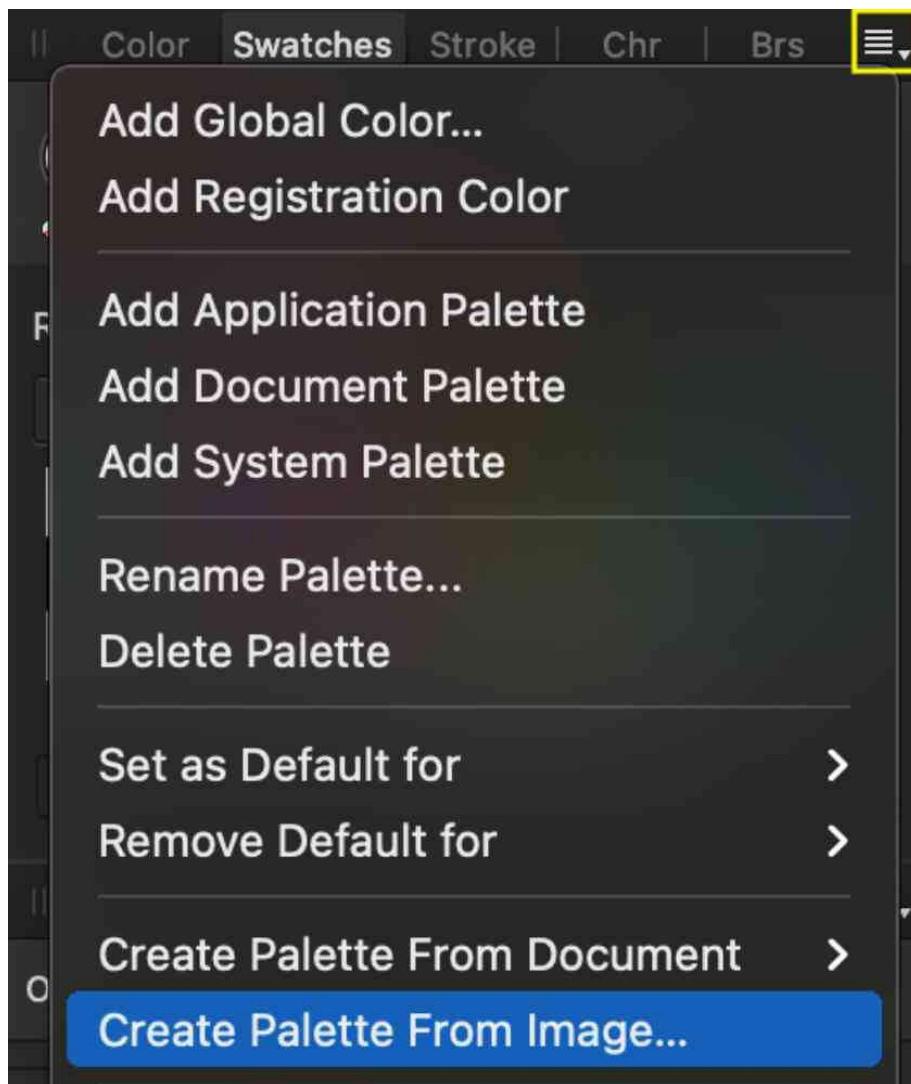
*Upload the **image** for this lesson named **Lesson 18 - GypsyTribe** from the Designer Images folder we can send to you. You can also go to their Instagram site [_gypsytribe_](#) and take a screenshot of the image (minus the symbols). Our screenshots are automatically saved to our Desktop. If yours aren't, make sure you remember where your screenshots are saved.*

You need to know the location of this image for the next step. We're going to be going back to the Landscape document and we'll be working there for the rest of this lesson.

*Click on the **Landscape with History** tab so the mountain design is once again in front of us and click on the **Swatches Panel** in the Colors Studio (see yellow rectangle in the below image).*

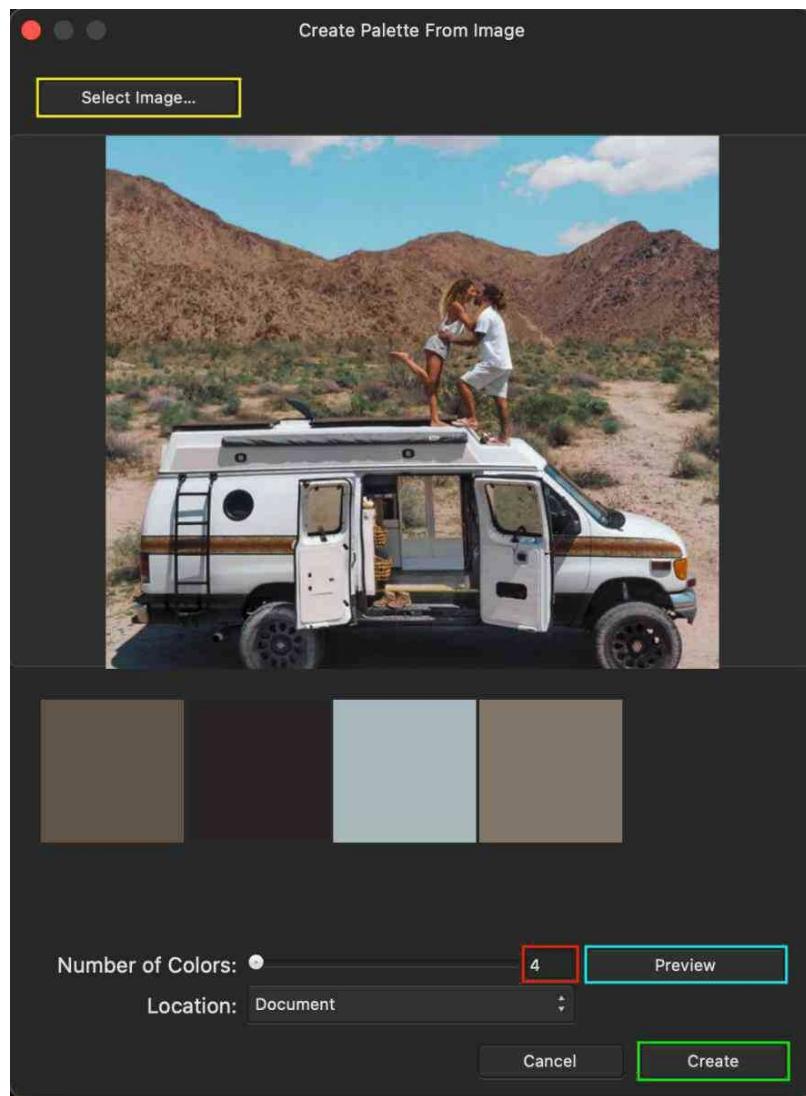


Click on its **menu icon** (the "burger") and then *click* on **Create Palette From Image...**



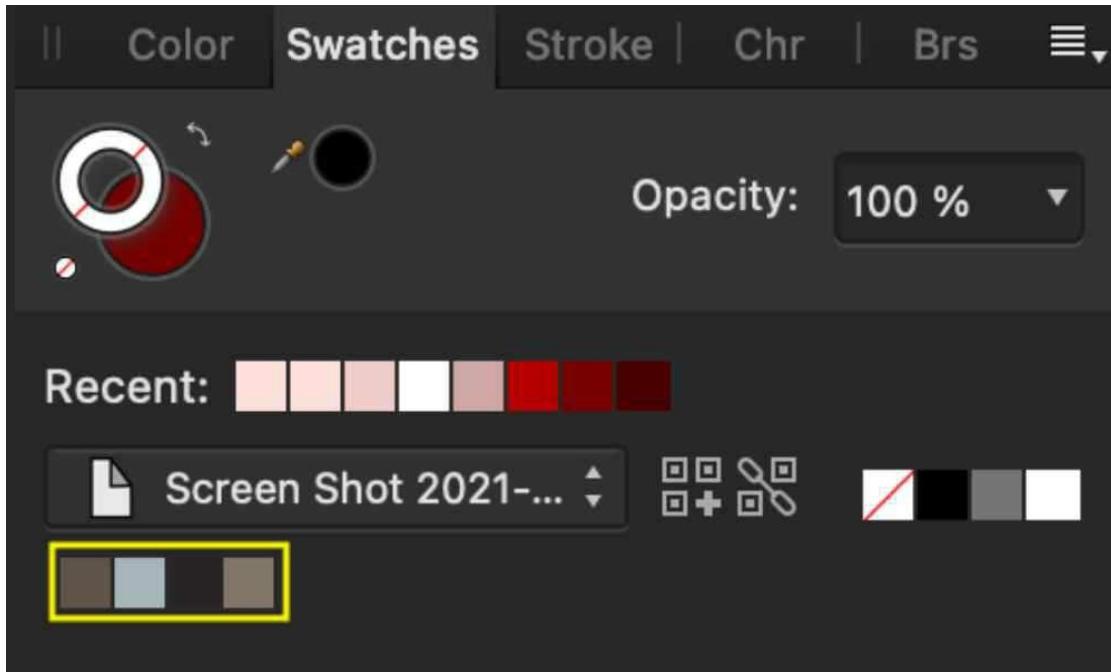
This will open a new pop-out window where you have to do a few things. Here are the steps you need to take:

1. **Yellow Rectangle:** Click on **Select Image...** and choose the screenshot from the location you saved it (or use the image in our folder: **Lesson 18 - Gypsytribe**).
2. **Red Rectangle:** Choose **4** because that's how many contours (plus sky) we have in our Landscape image. Make sure you press the Return key after choosing 4.
3. **Cyan Rectangle:** Press **Preview** to see the four colors we'll take from this image.
4. **Green Rectangle:** Press **Create** to create this four-color swatch panel in the Swatches Panel.



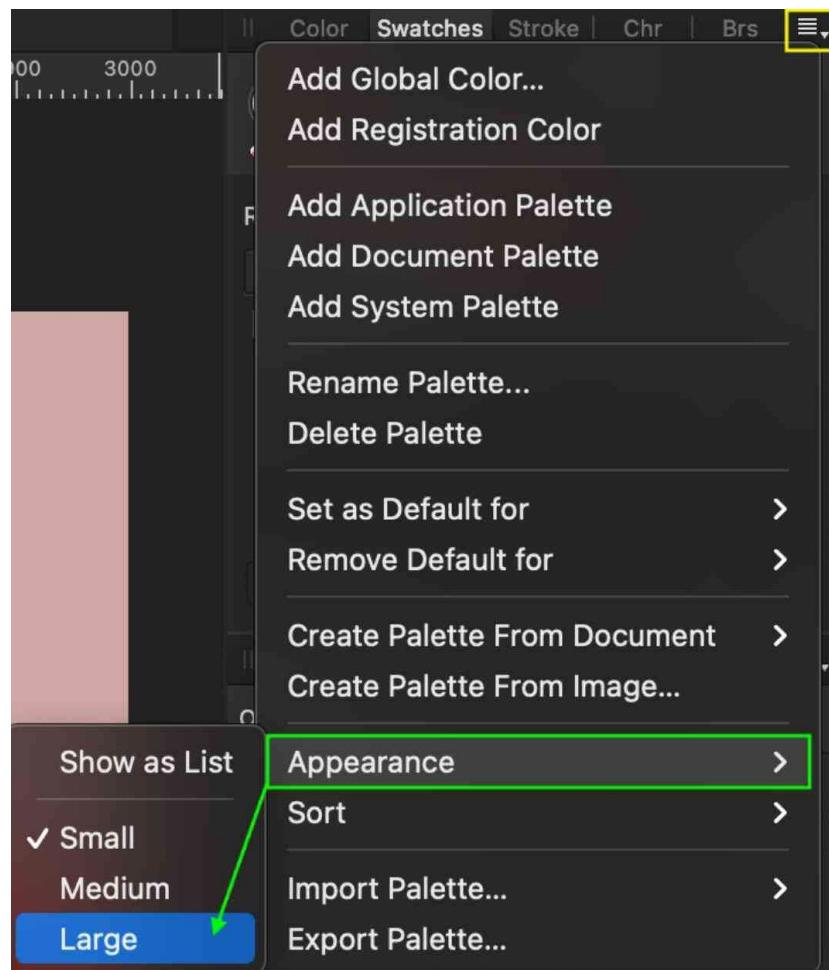
This is what our Swatches Panel looks like after we pressed Create. Isn't it cool how Designer can extract the colors from a photo so we can use these in our own work? We think this is really cool and remarkably easy once you know how to do it.

If you look at the below image, you'll see these four colors are now in the Swatches panel (see the yellow rectangle). We need to increase the size of these swatches so we can better use them in the next steps. Currently, they are a bit too small.

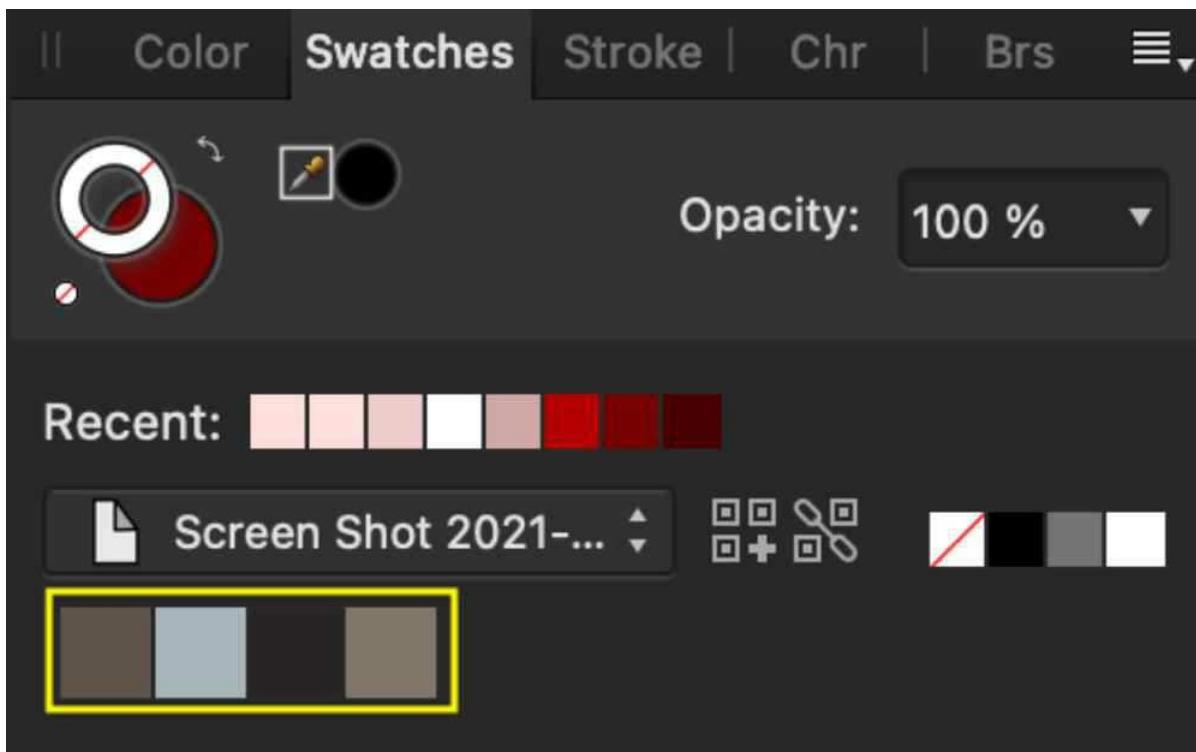


To make our new swatches larger...

*Click on the **menu icon** (see the yellow square in the below image) and when its pop-out window appears, click on **Appearance** (see the green rectangle) and then click on **Large** (see the green arrow). This will make our four new swatch squares double in size. For those of us with poor eyesight, this is a big help.*



This is the new look of our Swatches Panel. The new swatches (yellow rectangle) have doubled in size. This is precisely what we want for our next steps.



Now, we're going to take these four colors and apply them to our Landscape image. The new swatches aren't in the correct order, but that's ok. What we're going to do is apply the darkest swatch color to the darkest Landscape contour color (Contour 1) and the lightest swatch color to the lightest Landscape part (the sky).

To apply a swatch to a contour, we need to use the Color Picker Tool. This tool is located in the Colors Panel to the right of the Fill & Stroke circles. It looks like a water dropper (see white square above). We used this tool last in Lesson 15, so hopefully you still remember how to use it.

Ready to change the colors of our Landscape image to the four colors from the [_gypsytribe_](#) Instagram photo? Let's do this.

Press X to switch the positions of the Fill circle and the Stroke doughnut. We want the Fill circle to be in the foreground position.

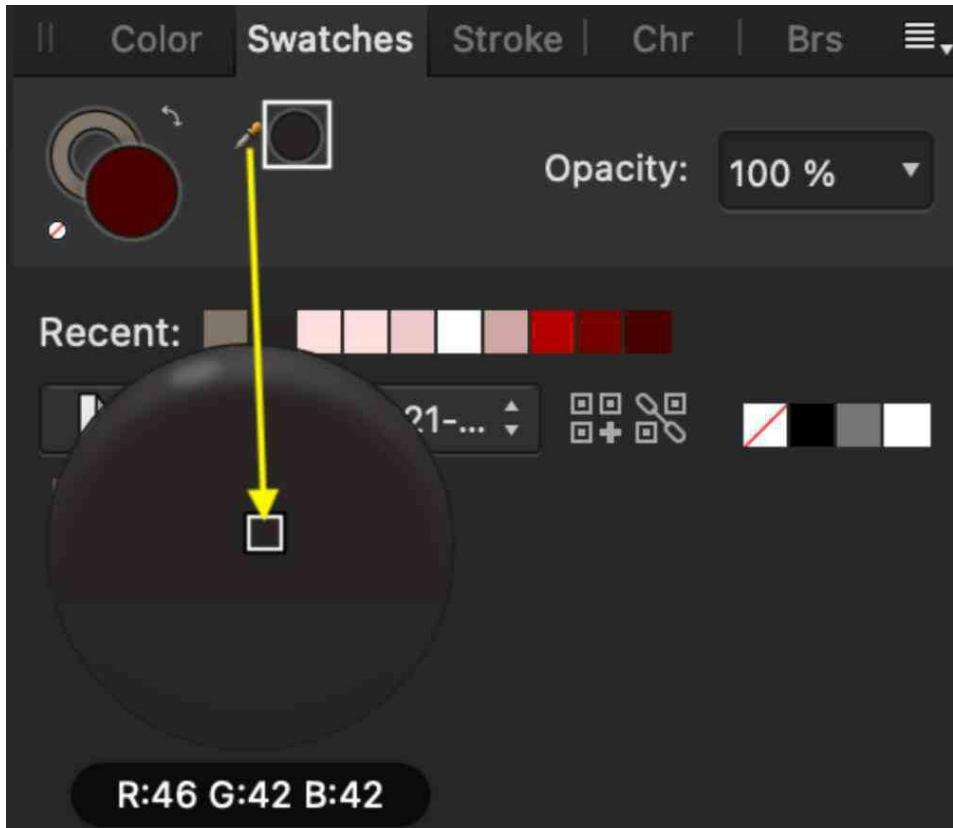
Click on the first contour (the darkest) so its layer is active in the Layers Panel. When layers are active their objects in the document will also be surrounded by the blue nodes. In the image below, the white curve layer is one of the three snow layers.



Note: When using the Color Picker Tool, we have to click on it and hold-down the mouse button. Then, we drag this unique magnifying cursor over the darkest swatch we have and release the mouse button. Then, to change the selected object in the document (Contour 1), we need to click on the little colored circle to the right of the Color Picker Tool's water dropper icon. We know this is redundant information for you, but hopefully redundancy is a good teacher here because it'll reinforce what you already know by making you re-learn it.

*Click on the **Color Picker Tool** & drag its **magnifying cursor** over the darkest swatch square and *release the mouse button* (see yellow arrow for this action).*

Note: Pay special attention to how changing colors using the Color Picker works. You'll be changing several colors using this method, but without this image to show you the way for each of the steps below.



Click on the **small circle** to the right of the Color Picker Tool's icon (see white square above). This will cause the first contour to change color to match that selected swatch.

This is what our first contour looks like now after making this change. Now, we need to change the color of the trees. This process is a little involved, but we'll do our best to make it as easy to follow as possible. Just remember, the trees that are on one contour need to be the same color as the contour.

Let's get to work...

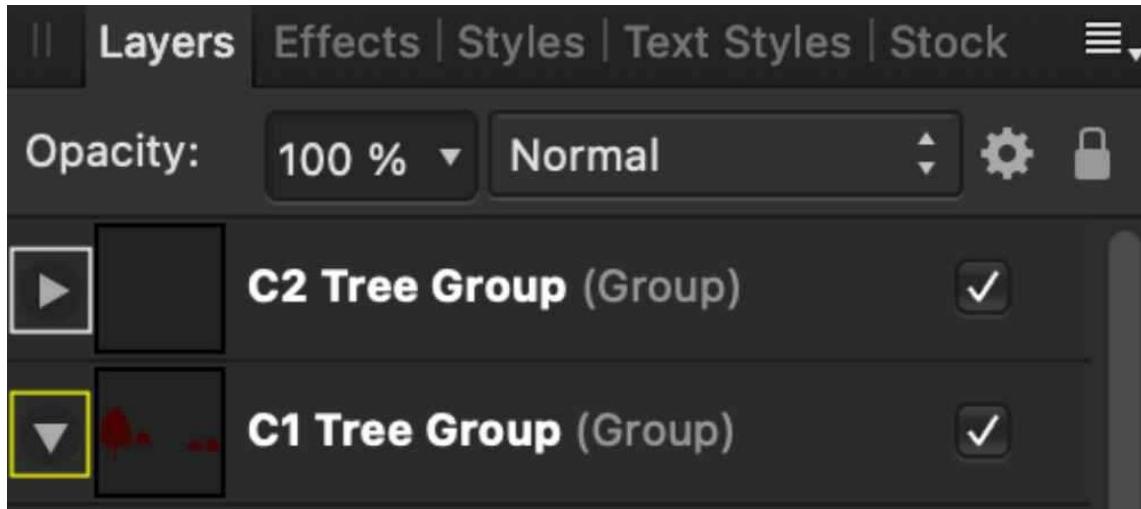


This is the process we're going to do to change the colors of the trees. We'll list them here and then walk you through the process.

- Open the **C1 Tree Group** by *pressing* on its **group icon** (looks like a circled triangle).
- Click on the **group icons** for each individually grouped C1 Tree layer. This will reveal its top Tree layer and its Rectangle child layer.
- Hold-down the **Ctrl/Cmd key** and click on each **Rectangle child layer** so all five are selected.
- Use the **Color Picker Tool** and when we change one color, all will change because all five Rectangle layers are highlighted in blue.

Ready to do this?

Click on the **Group icon** (see the yellow square in the below image) so that its circled triangle is pointing downwards. Compare how it differs in appearance to the top group icon (see the white square in the below image). The circled triangle in the top layer is pointing to the right, which signifies its group is closed (e.g., you can't see it). We didn't add the opened layers of the bottom group. We just wanted you to see that there's a difference between an open & closed group icon.



*Click on the **group icons** for each individually grouped C1 Tree layer. This will reveal its top C1 Tree layer and its (Rectangle) child layer.*

*Hold-down **Ctrl/Cmd** & click on each **Rectangle child layer** so all five are selected and highlighted in blue (see image below). You do not want to accidentally click on one of the C1 Tree layers. If you do, press **Ctrl/Cmd+Z** and try again.*

*Use the **Color Picker Tool** to change the color. Remember how this tool works? When we change one color all will change because all five Rectangle layers are highlighted in blue.*



This is what our Landscape image looks like now after these changes.



Now, that the tedious part is over, all we have to do is use the Color Picker Tool to change the colors of the other contours.

*Click on the **C1 Tree Group**'s icon so it collapses.*

*Click on the **2nd contour's layer** and use the **Color Picker Tool** to change its **color** to the next dark swatch (the right-most swatch).*

*Repeat the **steps** from above to change the colors of the C2 Tree Group to match the color of the 2nd contour.*

*Click on the **3rd contour's layer** (the snow-peaked mountains) and use the **Color Picker Tool** to change its **color** to the next lighter swatch (the far left swatch).*

*Click on the **sky layer** (the bottom Rectangle) and use the **Color Picker Tool** to change its color to the lightest swatch.*

We like the snow and the cloud colors just as they are. So, we'll not change their colors.

This is what our new landscape image looks like with the four colors we borrowed from the [_gypsytribe_](#) photo. How do you like this new look?

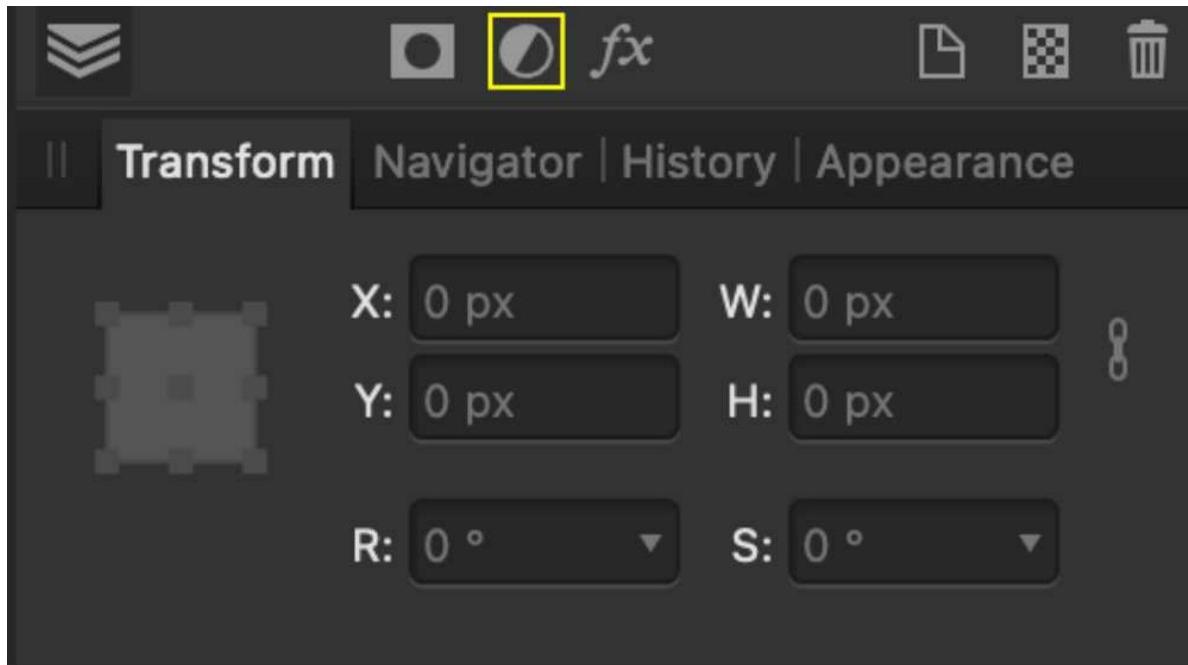


Are we done yet? Almost. We want to show you one more effect we can do to our Landscape image before we finish this lesson.

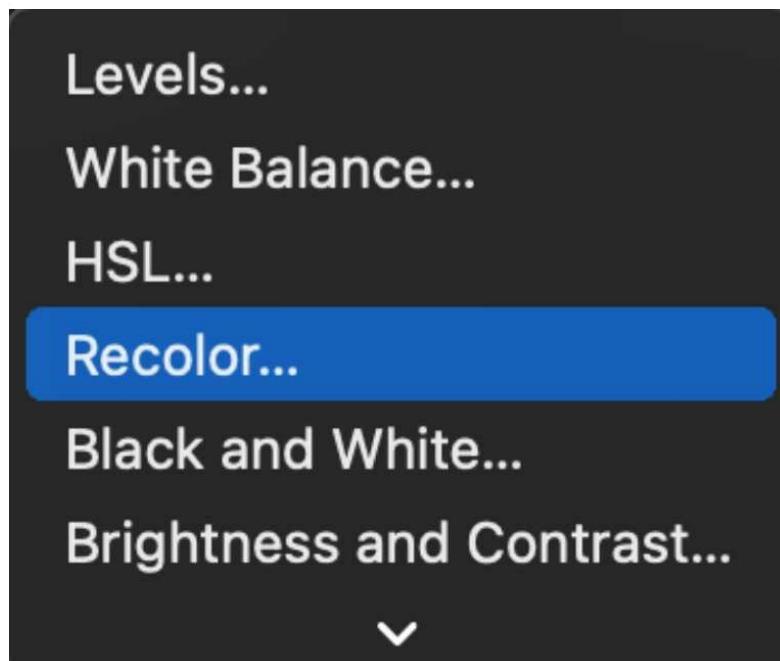
*Press the **Esc key** so none of the layers are selected (or click on the **canvas**).*

*Click on the **Adjustments icon** located in the lower right-hand corner area of the screen (see the yellow square). When you click on this icon, a pop-out window will appear with all of the Adjustment choices to choose from.*

Note: The Japanese-looking icon to its left is the Mask icon. In Affinity Photo that icon and the Adjustments icon are used very often. It's a good thing to know where these two icons are located.



Click on Recolor...



When you click on this, another pop-out window will appear. This is the Recolor Adjustment window. With this window and its sliders, we can

change the color of our Landscape to a multitude of other colors.

*Change the **values** in the Recolor Adjustment window just like how we have ours. Next, take a few minutes and play around with the sliders to make your own color combinations.*

- **Hue** is the color at full vibrancy. This is measured in degrees.
- **Saturation** is how vibrant or dull (gray) a color is. This is a percentage.
- **Lightness** is how bright or dark a color is. This is also a percentage.



This is what our Landscape image looks like with this Recolor adjustment added to it:



Note: Look at the Layers Panel. Do you notice how the Recolor Adjustment is positioned at the top of the Layers Panel? This is here because it's the last edit we added to our Landscape image. This is called non-destructive editing because while it affects the look of our document, its layer can easily be unchecked and turned off revealing our work before this Recolor Adjustment.

Done. This ends this lesson. Don't forget to save this document with its History

Finished.